

THE RED-MARGINED LUNA, A NEW VARIETY.

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In the vicinity of New York City the Luna moth is double brooded and occasionally there is also a third generation. The earliest Staten Island record that we have for the emergence of the moth out of doors, is April 20, 1891, and the next May 1, 1887. Later May records are more numerous, but the majority of the moths emerge in June and July. We long ago pointed out in the Proceedings of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island for April 13, 1895, that there was a spring form of *Tropaea luna*. This color variety may be called *rubromarginata*, the Red-margined Luna. It differs in color from the typical luna, having the costa red or reddish, and the outer margins of both the fore and hind wings are also of a reddish or scarlet hue. From this extreme, which is represented by three individuals in the author's collection, the variety grades into moths with the costa purplish and the outer margins of both the fore and hind wings of the same color, or of a reddish hue. The Lunas that have but the costa of a purple color appear later in the season than those in which the outer margins of both wings are deeply colored as well. These observations it should be understood refer to insects found out of doors and not artificially raised.

Dr. Alexander M. Ross in his "Classified Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Canada," Toronto, 1872, which is now a scarce publication, has this to say of his *Actias rossi*, now considered a variety: "I am satisfied this is a new species. The three specimens in my collection I obtained in a grove of maple, birch, and oak, near Toronto. The male is pure white, and expands three and a half inches; the female is white, with a light yellowish tinge. In form and marking, this moth closely resembles *Actias luna*. In my work on 'The Butterflies and Moths of Canada,' a full description of this beautiful insect is given."

"The Butterflies and Moths of Canada" referred to above, did not appear until 1873, and while there is a cut of the "Empress Luna Moth" on page 42, and a description of *Actias luna* on page

43, there is no mention of *Actias rossi*. Neither is it mentioned in the "synopsis" on page 78, where only *luna* is listed.

Another variety of *Tropæa luna*, is Walker's *dictynna*, Cat. Lep. Het. Brit. Mus. VI, 1264. The description is as follows: "Yellowish green. Head and fore part of the thorax whitish. Thorax with a broad purple band in front. Wings with an exterior slender incomplete pale brown band, which is most incomplete on the hind wings. Fore wings with a purple costal stripe, from whence a short branch proceeds to the vitreous ocellus; the latter is transversely elliptical and is bordered with brown, tawny, black, blue and black on the inner side, and with lilac, red, luteous and ferruginous on the outer side. Hind wings with a round ocellus, larger than that of the fore wings, but with the like disposition of colours; tails rather shorter than the breadth of the hind wings. Length of the body 12 lines; of the wings 52 lines.

"This species much resembles *T. luna*, but may be distinguished by the band on the wings, by the not empurpled exterior border, by the fore wings, which have a less oblique and more straight exterior border, and by the hind wings, which have shorter tails."

Variety *dictynna* is to be found more abundantly in the Southern United States.

ON A SUPERNUMERARY MEDIAN OCELLUS IN MELANOPLUS FEMUR-RUBRUM.

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In conducting laboratory work upon invertebrate forms, the teacher often has opportunities for observing interesting abnormalities of various organs both internal and external. These unusual structures are as a general thing very apparently due to injuries followed by a more or less successful attempt at repair or regeneration. Occasionally, however, anomalies occur which seem hardly to fit in with such an explanation and which must be classed as congenital. It is the belief of the writer that such cases should be reported even though no adequate explanation of the reason for the abnormality can be offered.

In insects the ocelli are usually present to the number of three—